

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 /067 W  
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R 111510Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5712  
INFO USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, ML  
SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKE IN BAMAKO

REF: BAMAKO 0557

1. STUDENTS IN BAMAKO, AFTER A THREE-DAY STRIKE, WON CONCESSIONS FROM MALIAN GOVERNMENT FEBRUARY 9 AND RETURNED TO THEIR CLASSES FEBRUARY 10. STUDENT PROTEST ORGANIZED AT ELITE ASKIA MOHAMED SECONDARY SCHOOL FEBRUARY 6 TURNED INTO CITY-WIDE SCHOOL STRIKE FEBRUARY 7 AND 8 AND ERUPTED INTO ROCK-THROWING SKIRMISHES WITH POLICE ON FEBRUARY 9.

2. STUDENTS' MAIN TARGET WAS GOM'S NEW PROCEDURE FOR ENTRANCE TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. UNTIL  
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1970, ALL STUDENTS WHO EARNED BACCALAUREATE WERE GUARANTEED ADMISSION TO A MALIAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. SINCE THEN, GOM HAS GRADUALLY ESTABLISHED COMPETITIVE EXAMS FOR ADMISSION TO MORE PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTES. FOR 1977, GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO GIVE, ON SAME DAY, ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES AND ALL SCHOLARSHIPS ABROAD. STUDENTS FELT

THAT NEW PROCEDURE NOT ONLY REDUCED CHANCES FOR  
ENTRANCE BY ALLOWING ONLY SINGLE EXAMINATION  
OPPORTUNITY BUT ALSO IN SOME UNDEFINED WAY INCREASED  
POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE OVER SELECTION PROCESS.

3. AS TENSIONS BUILT DURING LAST THREE DAYS, STUDENTS  
MILLED ABOUT SCHOOL AREAS AND JEERED AT RIOT POLICE  
WHO TRIED TO CLOSE DOWN CAMPUSES. MID-MORNING  
FEBRUARY 9, STUDENTS VANDALIZED GOVERNMENT STORE ACROSS  
NIGER RIVER, BLOCKED MAIN BRIDGE, AND STONED VEHICLES.  
ARMED PARATROOPERS MOVED INTO TOWN TO CLEAR TRAFFIC  
ARTERIES. BY MID-DAY, MALIAN ARMED FORCES, UNDER  
PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF SECURITY CHIEF BAGAYOKO, HAD  
RESTORED ORDER. RUMOR HAS IT THAT TWO STUDENTS WERE  
KILLED AND SEVERAL STUDENTS AND ONE POLICEMAN BEATEN  
OVER THREE-DAY PERIOD.

4. VICE PRESIDENT BABA DIARRA AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS  
HELD THREE-HOUR DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND  
TEACHERS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES IN MASS MEETING AFTERNOON  
OF FEBRUARY 9. GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO STAGGER EXAMINA-  
TION DATES AND BROADEN RANGE OF SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPIENTS.  
REPORTEDLY, GOVERNMENT ALSO PROMISED TO RECONSIDER ITS  
DECISION NOT TO HIRE GRADUATES WHO DO NOT GO ON TO  
HIGHER EDUCATION. STUDENT UNION PUBLISHED COMMUNIQUE  
ASKING STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CLASSES.

5. MORNING OF FEBRUARY 10, HOWEVER, JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS  
REPORTEDLY RANSACKED ANOTHER GOVERNMENT STORE IN OUT-  
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LYING BAMAKO SUBURB. STUDENT UNION ISSUED PRO-  
CLAMATION DISOWNING STUDENTS WHO DID NOT RETURN TO  
SCHOOL BUT TURNED INSTEAD TO BANDITRY. IN LAST 24 HOURS,  
GOVERNMENT HAS ARRESTED SEVERAL KEY STUDENT LEADERS OR  
EXPELLED THEM FROM SCHOOL. WHILE MANY STUDENTS ARE NOT  
SATISFIED WITH AGREEMENT REACHED IN FEBRUARY 9 MEETING,  
MOST HAVE RETURNED TO CLASS.

6. MALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS CONTROLLED AND PERHAPS DEFUSED  
EXPLOSIVE SITUATION BEFORE FEBRUARY 13 ARRIVAL OF  
FRENCH PRESIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, STUDENTS WHO HAVE  
EXPERIENCED EXCITEMENT OF STREET POLITICS MAY STAGE  
ANOTHER PROTEST DURING GISCARD'S VISIT TO EMBARRASS  
GOVERNMENT AND HIGHLIGHT THEIR CLAIM TO HIGHER  
EDUCATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, BOYCOTTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BAMAKO 557  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STUDENT STRIKE IN BAMAKO  
**TAGS:** PINS, ML  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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